

MENTOR

CAPITOL HILL DAY

Introduce yourself!

Share in the chat:

- Name
- Organization
- Location



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Today's Goal

- Give you a clearer picture of this grassroots advocacy event
- Cover the logistics
- Give you some tips
- And answer your questions

I will not be covering legislative issues today – *but don't fret!* You will be prepared on Hill Day.



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Capitol Hill Day Overview



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What to Expect

- Before Summit week:
 - Weekly communications from your state captains (MENTOR Affiliate or myself)
 - Reminder: MENTOR is scheduling all Congressional meetings
- During Summit week:
 - In-person training on Tuesday and Capitol Hill Day on Wednesday
 - Must attend
 - Must also be registered for Summit (don't forget to book your hotel!)



In-Person Training, Tuesday, February 3rd

Goal: help prepare participants hold successful Congressional meetings on Wednesday

- You will sit with your state peers
- We'll cover message development and legislative asks
- We'll talk about how to hold effective meetings
- Networking and planning with your fellow advocates

Feel free to bring your laptop or tablet if you like to take notes



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Capitol Hill Day Agenda

- 8:30 AM Light breakfast (Summit hotel)
- 9:30 – 10 AM CHD kick-off event (Summit hotel)
- 10:10 AM First buses depart for Capitol Hill
- 11AM – 4PM Scheduled Congressional Meetings



It's be a challenging year

- Nonprofits have carried the burden of funding cuts, issue reprioritization by government agencies, private funders, and general scrutiny.
- Many states and local communities have experienced increased law enforcement, immigration raids, and National Guard presence.
- Please know, you will see a noticeable National Guard presence in DC when you visit. ICE may be in the area.



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Security and Law Enforcement on Capitol Hill

- Visible, armed law enforcement presence
- Similar to airport security and restrictions
 - Pass through metal detector
 - Wand may be used
 - Bags scanned and searched
- *Security means delays are possible!*



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Additional FYIs

MENTOR provides buses to Capitol Hill in the morning. *You will have to get yourself back to the hotel.*

- Cabs, Uber/Lyft and public transport are easy to navigate.
- DC's subway (the Metro) is the most affordable option (www.wmata.com).

MENTOR will provide you with a Capitol Hill Day t-shirt – wear comfortable shoes and business-appropriate clothing!

- Avoid jeans and any buttons, pins, etc. with partisan or campaign slogans.





Advocacy is Effective

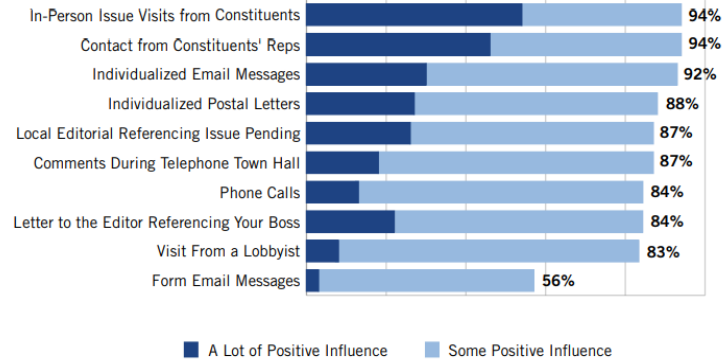


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Direct constituent interactions have more influence than other advocacy strategies.

If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the *Washington office* have on his/her decision?



(n = 190-192)

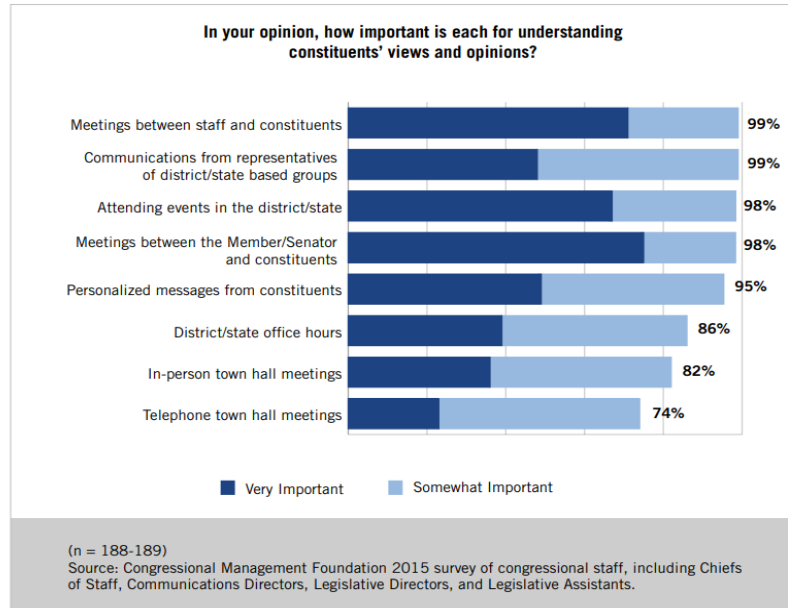
Source: Congressional Management Foundation 2015 survey of congressional staff, including Chiefs of Staff, Communications Directors, Legislative Directors, and Legislative Assistants.



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What you're doing will make a difference.



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Congressional Meetings



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Goals for successful meetings

1. Strengthen or establish relationships
2. Educate Members of Congress and staff
3. Ask for and determine their level of support for key policies and issues



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Before your meetings...

- Do your research!
- Look over relevant documents and talking points
- Make a plan with your teammates

MENTOR's Capitol Hill Day

Part of the 2025 National Mentoring Summit

MENTOR is honored to bring together 300 dedicated individuals – including youth mentoring and development program staff, volunteers, researchers, government officials, law enforcement representatives, and young people themselves – to engage with Congress. Together, we will highlight the enduring and transformative impact of quality, relationship-centered support systems in empowering and uplifting the nation's youth.



PROTECT INVESTMENT IN RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED SUPPORTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Youth Mentoring Program grant, managed by the DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), is the only mentoring-specific line item in the federal budget. It funds both competitive grants to effective direct-service mentoring programs and the National Mentoring Resource Center, which provides free, evidence-based training and technical assistance to programs nationwide. Explore its impact in your state on the National Mentoring Resource Center's website.

The Youth Mentoring Program grant is appropriated via the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) subcommittee bill. We urge at least \$110 million in final FY25 funding and \$130 million in FY26.

CO-SPONSOR LEGISLATION THAT CAN AID YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR STATE

The Mentoring to Succeed Act

Sen. Richard Durbin (IL)
Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL)

This bill would expand school-based mentoring programs for youth facing risk in communities with high rates of violence. It requires high quality, trauma-informed training for mentors and establishes goals of improving college access and attainment, skill development and career exploration.

Lead Contact(s):

Sen. Richard Durbin (IL): Amber Moore, Amber.Moore@durbin.senate.gov
Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09): Alexandra Patzakis, alexandra.patzakis@mail.house.gov

The Transition to Success Mentoring Act

Sen. Cory Booker (NJ)
Rep. André Carson (IN)

- > The bill establishes a grant to support partnerships between school districts and mentoring programs focused on academic success by supporting students at risk of dropping out during the critical transition from middle school to high school and throughout their high school years.

Lead Contact(s):

Sen. Cory Booker (NJ): Mia Furtado, mia.furtado@booker.senate.gov
Rep. André Carson (IN-07): Diala Cassem, diala.cassem@mail.house.gov



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During your meetings...

- Check in early
- Introduce yourself
- Don't shy away from chit chat but be mindful of time
- Make your pitch and tell your story
- Carefully listen to how the staff/legislator responds; take notes
- Get a commitment when possible
- Promise to follow up with your contact information and materials
- Allow time for questions (both directions)



Don't forget to take a photo!
#MentoringSummit



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After your meetings...

- Send a thank you note to the Member or staff
 - Personalize it!
 - At least one per team
- Post on social media with your photo and a thank you for meeting (tag the office(s) you met with)
- Follow up immediately after meeting with any promised information
 - And again 2-3 weeks after the meeting to check in on commitments

and, most importantly...



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Feedback – it’s important!

- We require at least one feedback survey form from each Congressional meeting
- Be as detailed as possible!
- Please use the feedback form provided in the app – you can find it in the same place where your meeting information is stored
- Provide useful feedback:
 - “Meeting went well” is less helpful than “Staffer expressed interest in...”





Preparing for Capitol Hill Day

- Keep your eye our for an e-mail from *Advocacy Associates* to log in to the app and access your schedule late next week
- Consider organizing a virtual networking session with other advocates from your state

From: AdvocacyDay <advocacyday@advocacyassociates.com>
Date: November 4, 2024 at 11:10:00 AM EST
To: Kaytee Yakacki <>
Subject: Schedule for Sample Lobby Day

Hello Kaytee Yakacki,

You can access your meeting schedule for Sample Lobby Day on our free "AdvocacyDay" app, available in the App Store for Apple devices and in the Google Play Store for Android devices.

If you already have the AdvocacyDay App downloaded to your device, it is critical you have the most up-to-date version downloaded before logging in.

The directions to access are as follows:

- In your device's app store, search for "AdvocacyDay" (all one word) and download it.
- On the login screen, enter the following email address: [your email address](#)
- You will be emailed a 6-digit code to enter on the next screen.
- If you are a part of multiple organizations in our app, you will be prompted to choose your organization here. For Sample Lobby Day, please choose O. If you are only a part of one organization, you will be brought directly to your meeting schedule page.
- There is a Support button on the login screen if you have any issues, or you can contact support here: advocacyday.net/testorg/support



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Q&A!



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